

CLAIMS

1. A method of managing communications in a telecommunication system comprising at least one first and one second subsystems, terminals being able to communicate via the second subsystem according to both a first communication mode and a second communication mode, the terminals not being able to communicate via the first subsystem according to both the first communication mode and the second communication mode, the method comprising the following steps, in relation to one of said terminals (1) having a first communication in progress with the first subsystem according to the first communication mode:

- detecting a request to set up a second communication according to the second communication mode for said terminal, said set-up request being initiated by said terminal to the first subsystem;
- in response to the detection of said request, initiating a transfer of the first current communication to the second subsystem; and
- setting up a second communication with the second subsystem according to the second communication mode.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the first subsystem is a second generation (2.5G) radio communication system.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which the second subsystem is a third generation (3G) radio communication system.

4. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the first communication mode is a circuit mode.

5. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the second communication mode is a packet mode.

5 6. The method as claimed in claims 2 and 5, in which the request to set up a second communication is sent by the terminal (1) via a message relating to the "Dual Transfer Mode" functionality (DTM Request).

10 7. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the detection of the request to set up a second communication results from the initiation of said request by the terminal (1).

15 8. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, in which the detection of the request to set up the second communication is carried out on the first subsystem.

20 9. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the transfer of the first current communication to the second subsystem is initiated by one or other of the terminal (1) or the first subsystem.

25 10. A telecommunication system comprising a first and a second subsystem, organized to apply the method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

30 11. A terminal (1) comprising means for communicating via a second subsystem of a telecommunication system according to both a first communication mode and a second communication mode, the terminal not being able to communicate via a first subsystem of the
35 telecommunication system according to both the first communication mode and the second communication mode, the terminal also comprising:

- means for initiating and for transmitting to the first subsystem a request to set up a second

communication according to the second communication mode, when it has a first communication in progress with the first subsystem according to the first communication mode; and

5 - means for continuing the first current communication on the second subsystem, these means being deployed after the means for initiating and for transmitting to the first subsystem a request to set up a second communication according to the

10 second communication mode have been deployed.

12. The terminal (1) as claimed in claim 11, in which the first subsystem is a second generation (2.5G) radio communication system.

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13. The terminal (1) as claimed in claim 12, in which the means for initiating and transmitting to the first subsystem a request to set up a second communication according to the second communication mode use a

20 message relating to the "Dual Transfer Mode" functionality (DTM Request).

14. The terminal (1) as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 13, in which the second subsystem is a

25 third generation (3G) radio communication system.

15. The terminal (1) as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 14, in which the first communication mode is a circuit mode.

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16. The terminal (1) as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 15, in which the second communication mode is a packet mode.

35 17. The terminal (1) as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 16, in which the means for continuing the first current communication on the second subsystem respond to a command (HO_command, Packet Cell Change Order) from the first subsystem.

18. The terminal (1) as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 16, in which the means for continuing the first current communication on the second subsystem respond to an initiation and a transmission by the means for initiating and for transmitting a request to set up a second communication according to the second communication mode.

19. An access controller (11) in a first subsystem of a telecommunication system also comprising at least one second subsystem, terminals being able to communicate via the second subsystem according to both a first communication mode and a second communication mode, the terminals not being able to communicate via the first subsystem according to both the first communication mode and the second communication mode, and the access controller comprising, in relation to one of said terminals (1) having a first communication in progress with the first subsystem according to the first communication mode, under the control of said access controller:

- means for detecting a request to set up a second communication according to the second communication mode for said terminal, said set-up request being initiated by said terminal to the first subsystem; and
- means for, in response to a detection of the request to set up a second communication according to the second communication mode for said terminal, initiating a transfer of the first current communication to the second subsystem.

20. The access controller (11) as claimed in claim 19, in which the first subsystem is a second generation (2.5G) radio communication system.

21. The access controller (11) as claimed in claim 19 or 20, in which the second subsystem is a third generation (3G) radio communication system.

5 22. The access controller (11) as claimed in any one of claims 19 to 21, in which the first communication mode is a circuit mode.

10 23. The access controller (11) as claimed in any one of claims 19 to 22, in which the second communication mode is a packet mode.

15 24. The access controller (11) as claimed in any one of claims 19 to 23, in which the means for detecting a request to set up a second communication according to the second communication mode for said terminal (1) comprise the reception of a message relating to the "Dual Transfer Mode" functionality (DTM Request).